



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE KATHLEEN M. MCCARTY
THIRTY-EIGHTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

226 GREAT NECK ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385

HOME: (860) 442-2903
CAPITOL: (800) 842-1423
Kathleen.McCarty@housegop.ct.gov

MEMBER

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

February 25, 2016 * 10:00am * 1C

Testimony on rSB 167 An Act Concerning A Study Of Emergency Power Needs In Public Housing For The Elderly.

Dear Chairmen Flexer and Serra, Ranking Members Kelly and Bolinsky, and distinguished members of the Aging Committee:

First, I would like to thank you for adding rSB 167 An Act Concerning Power Needs In Public Housing For The Elderly to the public hearing agenda today. A similar proposal (HB 6684) was raised in the 2015 session that had a public hearing in this committee.

Given the severe storms that have occurred in our state over the past five years and the devastating impact that extended power outages have had on the safety and well-being of our residents, particularly our seniors, rSB 167 in my opinion takes on even more relevance and importance today.

Many of our senior residents have health issues that rely on critical medical equipment to meet their complex health needs. In the event that a housing unit is not equipped with a generator, and there is an extended (or even limited) power outage these residents are put at a health risk without a generator to supply electricity to their medical equipment. In an extended power outage, the potentiality of a life and death situation may exist for many senior residents who are not able to vacate their homes. Several seniors in my district have requested that rSB 167 be given serious consideration and that housing complexes be furnished with generators.

A study of housing buildings across our state to ascertain if a generator exists or not within our public housing units would be very useful. This data would supply us with the necessary knowledge regarding buildings that do not possess back-up power. Perhaps a study commissioned by the Department of Housing could be conducted using existing information that might be available from our agencies that interact with housing complexes. Hopefully, this study could be compiled using existing agency resources without requiring additional funds.

For the reasons stated above, and because the safety and welfare of our elderly is a primary concern of mine, I support wholeheartedly rSB 167.

Thank you again for taking my testimony into your consideration.

Kathleen M. McCarty
State Representative, 38th District
Waterford, Montville